



EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP EEG EDU NEWS

Together for a Better Environment©



Habiba Al Mar'ashi

As we come to the conclusion of the first quarter of the year, we have experienced the month of March as an eventful one with multitude of environmental events. The staff members at EEG and myself were kept on our toes attending and organising various workshops & seminars locally and globally; in addition to rolling out and continuing our annual programmes.

We began the month with a grand Gala Dinner, celebrating partnerships and collaborations undertaken by EEG and other entities to further spread the message of environmental sustainability and support the rolling out of the action programmes across the country. I thank H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qassimi, for giving his patronage for the Gala Dinner and gracing the gala event with his presence.

Continuing on, in our efforts to engage with the community and keep up to date with the events across the globe, we immersed ourselves in various events. I was happy to attend 10th GPCA PlastiCon in the Kingdom of Bahrain; a workshop in Bonn, Germany; be a panelist at a panel discussion on the topic of "Governance of Sustainability and Corporate Philanthropy" and attend the Gala Dinner of the Netherlands Embassy. On the other hand, we successfully conducted the 2nd Panel Discussion for the year on the topic 'Sustainable cities and Communities' and a workshop for the employees of ENOC. Please continue to read more in the EEG News section of this newsletter.

While numerous activities mentioned above actively engaged the adult populations of the world, we cannot ignore to mold the young minds who are the leaders and innovators of tomorrow. The Environmental Drawing Competition that we had rolled out in January has finally come to an end. Over the course of the months, we saw hundreds of drawing from students of the tender age of 6 years old to teenagers of 16 years with their diverse imaginations, being portrayed on to canvas paper. We are happy to say that a total of 555 schools participated in the competition with over 2,500 paintings being received at the EEG office. The drawings have come from students of different backgrounds, culture and even with special needs to show their commitment to environment. The results will be announced at the awarding ceremony on 19th May.

To celebrate the Global Recycling Day on 18th of March, EEG also rolled out its Green Call project on the 19th to collect mobile phones for recycling. Those entities who deposit the set quantity of mobile phone will be given an opportunity to plant a native sapling in December. The One Root, One Communi-tree project continues to draw in vast number of participants. Read about its update in EEG News.

We concluded the month by participating in the Earth Hour and organising the Paper Walk campaign. 267 megawatts of electricity was saved in the Emirate of Dubai, equivalent to a reduction of 114 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. The month of April is filled with programmes. EEG has received registrations from various schools to participate in the Environmental Public Speaking Competition to be held on 22nd and 23rd of April. Registrations are still open and I look forward to more teams registering to participate. We have rolled out the annual "Your Can, For a Tree" project on the 1st of April. Register to participate and secure yourself an opportunity to plant a tree under your name.

I am sure the next three quarters of the year will be as eventful and full of success stories regarding sustainability and protection of the environment. As we continue in the year of tolerance, I look forward to working with all sectors of the community to unite and head towards a better future and environment.

Engage in GREEN
Discussions



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EEG successfully conducts the Annual Corporate Gala Dinner!

EEG hosted its 22nd Annual Gala Dinner in the evening of 4th of March in the beautiful gardens of “Habtoor Palace - LXR Hotels and Resorts” to recognise the dedicated stakeholders and to celebrate long lasting and effective partnerships. The event was held under the patronage of H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem bin Sultan bin Saqr Al-Qasimi, Member of the Executive Council of the Government of RAK and Chairman of the Department of Civil Aviation, and an Honorary Member of EEG.

The momentous event aimed to acknowledge the joint accomplishments of public and private sector entities in maximising sustainable practices, under the meaningful year of 2019 as declared by the visionary leadership of the United Arab Emirates as the “Year of Tolerance”. The dinner was graced by H.E. the Sheikh, ambassadors from multiple embassies in UAE and various VIPs from the government and private sector entities who have supported EEG in the year 2018; and members of the board and the executive committee of EEG, further cementing the culture of tolerance that EEG has always practiced and instilled. Dr. Dena Assaf , UN Resident Coordinator for the UAE was one of the key note speaker for the evening.

The meaningful event was sponsored by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority as the Diamond Sponsor, Wasl as a Special Sponsor, McDonald’s UAE and Dutco Construction Co. (L.L.C.) as Gold Sponsors and Chalhoub Group as the Silver Sponsor. The Arabia CSR Network came on board as the Sustainability Partner. The Gala was conducted as a Carbon neutral event by offsetting 5.83 MT tonnes of CO₂ emissions, courtesy EEG Corporate Member Farnek. A total of 55 awards were given during the night, and as is customary of EEG every guest went home with a beautiful sapling of a GHAF tree that has been chosen as a symbol of the year of Tolerance by HH. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President & Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.



EEG attends Workshop conducted by EAD and AGEDI.

On the morning of the 4th of March, EEG attended and participated in the workshop “Catalyzing Coordinated Action To Address Selected Human Impacts On The Coastal And Marine Ecosystems Of The Arabian Gulf”, organised by the Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi (EAD), the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) and the UK Science and Innovation Network to discuss the research conducted with the Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

The three main topics for the discussion were Marine Invasive Species, Marine Litter and Desalination. The participants, discussed the existing information and shared their ideas on how to resolve the Data, Knowledge, Research and innovation gaps; and the coordinated actions required regarding policy, governance and finance.

EEG congratulates EAD for conducting such an important workshop and is appreciative of the invitation extended to it to participate and looks forward to collaborate further in the future.

EEG meets with a concerned resident in The Gardens!

On the 5th of March, EEG met with a resident of The Gardens community, Nakheel representative and the Landscaping team to discuss the maintenance of the flora at the vicinity.

The meeting was set up upon the initial conversation regarding the status of trees in the Gardens as a result of the cutting off irrigation system due to the construction of the new metro line. The concerned resident, who did not see any rectification done after her numerous complaints to the developer over the course of a year, approached EEG directly to help resolve this situation.

EEG actively promotes the development of green spaces in UAE and as a member of the IUCN works diligently to combat decertification; it had to step in to help find a solution for this issue. A letter was sent to the CEO of Nakheel to draw his attention and to seek his support to speed up the efforts required and to avoid unnecessary delays. Upon being informed, the management team from Nakheel promptly approached EEG to look into the matter.

EEG acted as liaison entity, set up a meeting to discuss and identify the problem, assess the number of trees that were dying or already cut down. After understanding the actuality of the complaint, Nakheel team instructed the landscaping team to take immediate actions to save the existing trees and further more plant indigenous and desert tolerant trees at places where they are required.

EEG sits for an interview with young students.

Raha International School visited EEG office on the 12th of March, to conduct an interview on the topic of Climate Change and Global Warming. The interview was part of their research for their grade 5 exhibition project. EEG was delighted to sit with the students and answer their questions. We encourage students and schools to come on board as individual or academic members with EEG to enable us to share and discuss our work with you in detail for your school projects!



EEG chairperson attends 10th GPCA PlastiCon and Research & Innovation summit in Bahrain

EEG Chairperson Mrs. Habiba Al-Mar’ashi, attended the PlastiCon conference in the Kingdom of Bahrain at the kind invitation of GPIC to understand the current market trends and solutions; and to learn the developments of the future usage of plastics.

The 10th GPCA PlastiCon was held between 11th - 12th March and the 6th GPCA Research and Innovation summit was held from 13th - 14th of March under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Oil, Kingdom of Bahrain. The theme for the PlastiCon this year was ‘Innovative Plastic Designs: Sustainability for Future Generations’. The key areas they covered included:

- Product and process design that minimises and simplifies usage and wastage
- Participant led innovation that drives sustainability as a key business objective, not just corporate responsibility
- Reusability of plastic applications that prevent leakage into the environment

The summit discussed the uncertainties in business and the research and innovation required to stay in this competitive and complex market. The sessions looked at various case studies on digitisation, artificial intelligence, process control; performance chemicals and concluded with best practices and strategies. Both the events provided a platform for stakeholders from all sectors including, government, academia, and industry to come together, network and share their ideas and forge new effective partnerships for the sustainable development of the region.

WWF-SASSI Webinar

EEG participated in the webinar hosted by WWF-SASSI (South African Sustainable Seafood Consumption Initiatives) with the support of UN 10 YFP on 14th of March. The webinar was on the topic of Sustainable Seafood in an African Context. It was attended by a variety of international WWF offices & other key stakeholders such as ‘UN FAO’, ‘RSPO’ and ‘Save Our Seas’, to name a few. The session explored a variety of current fishing best practices, social media awareness campaigns, successful fisheries polices, and consumer awareness stories. EEG is proud to be actively involved in these international platforms along with its local initiatives.

EEG celebrated the Global Recycling Day by rolling out Green Call project

The 19th of March 2019 marked the commencement of EEG’s popular project “Green Call”, which aimed at celebrating the Global Recycling Day, a meaningful occasion with a mission of driving awareness and action around the urgent need to recycle. The participants of the project were required to deposit their old mobile phones and tablets for recycling. The successful 2019 cycle of the project has already received 105 registered schools, corporate entities and student members. Participants who demonstrate commitment towards achieving the set targets within the one-month time period and will be eligible to plant a tree sapling under their name on the 19th December 2019 as part of EEG’s for Our Emirates We Plant ceremony. Register for this programme through this link: <https://forms.gle/V79ekJxxhg339p8M6>.



“What’s on your plate” workshop with ENOC

EEG conducted an interactive workshop with its corporate member and strategic educational partners -ENOC at their head office in Oud Metha. The workshop was built around the concept of understanding and raising awareness on the concept of carbon footprint of food. The workshop dwelled into the specifics regarding the food we eat, with a focus on issues such as ‘food miles’, ‘high carbon vs low carbon diets’, ‘water footprint’ and more! The ENOC employees participated in an interactive session with activities such as a mock buffet, a quiz on food and an open discussion on various issues pertaining to health and the environment. The successful event was held as part of ENOC’s commitment to tangibly celebrate Earth Hour and world Earth Day!



Netherlands Embassy conducts their Gala Dinner with a chromatic theme.

EEG’s chairperson attended the Gala Dinner organised by the Embassy of Netherlands on 25th of March 2019. Under the elegant and colourful theme “The Chromatic Dinner”, the event intertwined and elevated the experience of the attendees through the amalgamation of art with cuisine. INKED Dubai and Chef Hadrien Villedieu has reinvented the meaning of food hospitality through their use of vibrant food.

The five course meal presented great imagination: the diners blindfolded in red, revealed food of only green colours. Followed by green fold and red appetizers, blue fold with yellow salad, black fold with white main course. Finally, with the lights dimmed to the maximum, the black themed desserts were served to the over joyed diners who were forbidden to talk as one should know, sweets are to be relished for you to conclude the meal with complete content. Mrs. Habiba thanks the Netherlands Embassy for inviting her to a meal she will never forget.

One Root, One Communi-tree update!

EEG’s Phase 1 of its engaging “One Root, One Communi-Tree” project was rolled out for Student Members and Academic Institutions from the 19th of January until the 19th of May 2019. Under this project, the participants who deposit a pre-set target of recyclable materials will be eligible for a certificate and as an additional bonus, trees to plant at the end of the year. Till the 31st of March, 71 academic institutions/corporations and 83 student members have registered. A total of 207,212 kg paper, 948 pcs toners, 11 pcs mobile phones, 532 Kg of Aluminum Cans and 7,487 kg plastic has been deposited under this project which lead to the participants being eligible to plant 232 trees under their name. The meaningful campaign has numerous positive benefits as it allows the participants to display their contribution towards sustainability. Do not miss out on the opportunity and enroll yourselves in the “One Root One Communi-Tree”. Register via link:https://forms.gle/cRPTRAAAvpN1DR9_.

EEG conducts the 2nd Panel Discussion of the year!

Emirates Environmental Group in collaboration with Arabia CSR Network, Emirates Green Building Council and Clean Energy Business Council held the second panel discussion of 2019 on the topic of ‘Sustainable cities and Communities’. The event took place at the Modul University in Dubai on 25th of March. It was aimed at bolstering the knowledge on sustainable cities and communities in the region by bringing together sustainably conscious global citizens interested in learning more and understanding about the developments and advancements being made in the field of urban development. Focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 11, the panel discussion addressed City Resilience to Climate Change, Renewable Energy integration, Green Construction material and Green investments.

The session addressed very strong questions regarding the challenges facing the region in the transition towards a truly sustainable city, the challenges in retrofitting existing structures to shift them towards renewable energy run structures and whether it could be used to making buildings net zero energy. Queries were also raised regarding measuring the resilience or the success of a city in terms of sustainability, the importance of Green Spaces in the context of UAE and the region and whether it was something developers were increasingly looking to adopt.

The topic was well covered with expert opinion from a diverse panel of speakers. These included the Mr Saeed Al Abbar - Managing Director of AESG and Chairman of Emirates Green Building Council, Ms. Huda Shaka - Associate Director at Arup, Mr Pradeep Singh - Assistant Director of Business Development at Etihad ESCO and the Mr Ken Wade- Director at 5 Capital. The panel explored how UAE is leading the talk on the implementation of sustainable city policies, projects and technologies. The presentations were followed by a lively interactive session where the experts and audience members shared information and discussed queries on the challenges and opportunities of the future of cities.



Panel Discussion on Governance and Corporate Philanthropy

The Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance in collaboration with the American University of Beirut held a panel discussion on the topic of Governance of Sustainability and Corporate Philanthropy Panel Discussion at the premises of the Dubai International Financial Center on the 26th of March, 2019.

Arabia CSR President & CEO and Chairperson of EEG, Mrs. Habiba Al Mar’ashi was invited as a panelist to bring her vast and successful experience to the fore and give her views on the topic.

Over the course of the discussion, the panel covered such areas as companies integrating their sustainability initiatives and corporate philanthropy programmes towards maximising their greatest strengths, reporting methods to be used on the impact of their philanthropy and ensuring the long term sustainability of philanthropic programs.



Environmental Drawing Competition 2019 comes to a conclusion fruitfully.

EEG launched its 13th Environmental Drawing Competition in January to the youth of UAE to express their thoughts and ideas in their own distinct and creative way, demonstrating a sense of care and respect for the environment. Those students who participate in this unique nationwide event is given a platform to truly express their thoughts on sustainability, the environment and the nation in their own artistic way that will move the minds of the audience. As the month came to an end, so did the competition. This year, a total of 555 schools and 102 EEG student members have registered for the competition.

The judging of the paintings, which is itself a tedious and seemingly impossible task will take place on 15th of April. The winners will be invited to attend EEG’s Environmental Drawing Competition Awarding Ceremony in May of 2019, where they will be awarded prizes and certificates accordingly. We thank all the students who participated and drew their wonderful imagination onto a paper, and we wish all the luck in the judging

EEG celebrates Earth Hour 2019 with a blaze and conducts Paper Walk!

The evening of 30th of March highlighted the 11th year of celebrating the Earth Hour in UAE. The Earth Hour is an event where entities around the world switch off their lights for one hour at night between 8:30pm - 9:30pm local time. Organised by Dubai Water and Electricity Authority (DEWA), every year, the last Saturday of March, Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) has joined the movement since its launch.

This year, close to 600 individuals of various entities attended Earth Hour on behalf of EEG. EEG once again conducted the Paper Walk project at the event, where EEG members brought in small quantities of paper for recycling before the beginning of the Earth Hour. A total amount of 2,500 kg of paper was brought for recycling. By sending these papers for recycling, EEG and its members have mitigated, 9.7 metric tonnes of CO2E from the atmosphere, saved 56 million btu of energy, 8 m3 of landfill space and 43 from trees being felled.

In addition to this, EEG organised the signing of a Pledge board for its members and for the VIP’s at the event. Various young student members of EEG wrote their pledges with colourful fluorescent pens and placed their fingerprint signature. As the hour to initiate the Earth Hour approached, various VIPs including, H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, the Minister of Environment & Climate Change; H.E. Saeed Al Tayer, the MD and CEO of DEWA; H.E. Saif Humaid Al Falasi Group CEO of ENOC along with the Chairperson of EEG and various official dignitaries visited the EEG stand to write and sign their pledges for the year.

The march ended with students of EEG walking at the Earth Hour march, holding fluorescent Paper Pinwheel with glow in the dark paint design spinning in the wind; trailing smartly behind the EEG banner in the dark, to conclude the event on a memorable note.



Intensify research on the use of industrial bauxite products in construction applications

Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) announced that it will intensify research partnership with VITO NV, the European research and technology organisation, to find uses of bauxite residue for the UAE construction industry by further developing two of the potential applications identified in the first phase of the project.

The first of the new studies will investigate the potential for bauxite residue to be used for constructing road foundations, replacing materials such as sand. "The second study will assess whether bauxite residue can replace imported clay-based light weight aggregates, which are used to make light weight concrete as well as sound and heat insulating blocks. If successful, this could create a new industry based on locally available materials and substantially reduce the UAE's reliance on these imported construction products.

Dubai Executives Strategy and Adaptation to Climate Change

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, First Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council, chaired the first meeting of the Strategic Affairs Council of the Executive Council of Dubai this year to discuss a number of topics on the agenda in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum Second Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council, and members of the Board.

The participants were briefed on the agenda of the Executive Council and the Strategic Affairs Council for 2019; after it was agreed upon with the concerned authorities. The topics, studies and policies that will be discussed throughout the year were included in a number of vital sectors and themes which varied between the outcomes of the Shandagha meeting, the priorities of the government sector, and the objectives of the Dubai 2021 Plan, which are in the sectors of social development, security and justice, health and safety, infrastructure and the environment, and economic development.

The Executive Council Secretariat also reviewed a study conducted in collaboration with Zayed University and the Dubai Statistics Center; which was conducted to identify patterns of consumption and material behaviour prevalent in the community, especially among UAE Emiratis in Dubai, and proposed steps to fill gaps and innovative solutions based on the latest behavioural sciences.

The study showed the prevalence of physical and consumer behaviour and their impact on the level of satisfaction with the standard of living among the social groups in Dubai. It also pointed to the causes and consequences of these and their impact on the financial situation of the individual and the family, Society, satisfaction with life, and economic growth in the emirate.

The study showed that the luxurious lifestyle, the availability of modern products and high brands, in addition to high income levels and access to credit cards, all contribute to the increase in consumption and physical behaviour.

UAE reserves, A safe shelter for endangered species

The UAE is seeking to improve the natural habitats of indigenous animals to increase their numbers, and some environmental projects pave the way for denser green areas in terms of the number of animal, despite the country's desert area of 80%, according to a report by Euro News.

The channel has toured some nature reserves, namely Wadi Al-Wraya in Fujairah, Al Ghaf Forest Reserve, Sir Bani Yas Island in Abu Dhabi and Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary in Dubai, to learn about the country's most important efforts to preserve indigenous animals and plants.

According to the report, the Valley of the Perennial Plant, part of the Al-Hajar mountain range, was listed on the World Conservation of the Biosphere Reserve at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2017 and became the 33rd among the biosphere reserves in the Arab countries devoted to research and conservation measures. It contains 208 species of plants and birds such as the eagle of the bonyle and 24 species of dragonflies, and has become the home of the breeding center of the original Arab "tahr", a type close to goat endangered. The government was in the process of reviving the valley, which closed the reserve without announcing a date for re-opening, and in 2006, a major project aimed at protecting the water reservoir that protects Wadi Al-Wraya from depletion.

The report also spoke about Abu Dhabi's efforts in the preservation of the natural environment, referring to the National Park of the Al-Ghaf trees, covering an area of 19 square kilometres, where there are many species of animals including trout, heron and Western coral reefs, Ras Al Khor Wildlife Park in Dubai, which was established in 1985, is important for migratory birds. It was included in the Ramsar Convention of UNESCO in 2007, making it a wetland of international importance.

Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture opens application for fellowship.

The International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) has opened the application for its first ever Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture (AWLA) fellowship under the theme "The role of women in agricultural prosperity". The deadline to apply for the fellowship is 15th of April 2019. The fellowship is mainly targeted to women researchers in the MENA regions, who are interested in the national, international and global agricultural challenges. Out of all the applicants, 20-30 arab women researchers in the MENA regions will be selected. For more information and to check your eligibility to apply, please look through their website: <https://www.awlafellowships.org/fellowship>.

CAMPUS NEWS

Sunrise English Private School establish an initiative to reduce landfill space in Abu Dhabi

Students and teachers of Sunrise English Private School has established a programme to convert food waste into manure. The teacher from this school in Abu Dhabi was concerned to see the number of landfill areas in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. To convert reduce the number of landfills, the Sustainability Schools Initiative co-ordinator decided to establish this programme to benefit the community and educate the students at the same time. The school uses, Smart Cara machine to convert the food waste from the cafeteria and the students home into manure for school's organic garden. The school collaborated with Masdar City, who sent a representative to teach the school about the workings of the machine, which is fully automated and regulated using revolutionary sensory systems. They remaining organic compost is being sold to parents and or given to Al Ain farm via Masdar City. This initiative has inspired teachers from other schools, who plan to implement the same system. They are planning to conduct more awareness campaigns at neighbouring schools for the benefit of the community. An estimate 3 million tonnes of food are wasted annually in the UAE. The country is looking to become the first in the region to achieve zero food waste. EEG congratulates Sunrise English Private School for starting this initiative and leading the Abu Dhabi community in the right direction to achieve sustainability.

Preserving the desert environment promotes sustainability

A seminar organized by the Dubai Academy of the Future, entitled "Night Scenes and Public Places in the Gulf", during which the CEO of X Article spoke about the importance of strict laws to protect the desert environment from individual behaviours that could cause long-term damage. In the presence of the Director of the Dubai Future Academy and Chairman of the UAE Architectural Heritage Society. The Director of the Academy explained that the wide awareness of the UAE community of the importance of preserving the desert is a necessity and a factor that enhances the sustainability adopted by the wise leadership, and is followed by various governmental and private bodies in the country. For his part, the president of the association said that the UAE has put in place strict laws to protect the desert from the visitors, in addition to the presence of the necessary services in these areas and the awareness in which users enjoy the importance of dealing with the desert as their home, whether in preserving plants or animals in accordance with our Arab customs and traditions. Authentic environmental protection. The attention of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God bless him and grant him peace, to the environment and the need to preserve and develop it, is based on a vision aimed at achieving a balance between development and the environment and preserving the right of successive generations to enjoy life in a clean, healthy and safe environment

EEG Student member receives prestigious award!

EEG congratulates Flavian Abe Sam, who has been awarded the prestigious Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education 2019. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours and hope to see him continue to excel in the field of education and environmental literacy.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Children around the world fight against climate change

Plant for the Planet aims to plant 1 Trillion trees!

Plant-for-the-Planet Initiative is a global movement with one singular goal to fight climate change by planting trees around the world. This initiative, launched in 2007 by 9 years old Felix Finkbeiner through a presentation in his school; is now a global children's initiative. Currently over 100,000 children around the world are following the same mission.

In November 2011, UNEP, handed over the Billion Tree Campaign to the children of "Plant for the Planet" Till date, children around the world, under this initiative have planted 13.64 billion trees. In March 2018, 30 representatives of companies, NROs, and VIPs like Prince Albert II of Monaco and Patricia Espinosa, General Secretary of the United Nations Climate Change UNFCCC, signed the Trillion Tree Declaration and launched the Trillion Tree Campaign.

Find out more on their website:

<https://www.plant-for-the-planet.org/en/home>

15 year of student lead the protest against the lack of action against the climate crisis

During the week of 15th of March, 1.6 million people across the world stood and held a strike in more than 125 countries at over 2000 places. This movement is called #FridaysForFuture. The movement began with 15-year-old Greta Thunberg, when she sat in front of the Swedish parliament in August of last year for three weeks including school days to protest the lack of action being taken to resolve the climate crisis. Soon her strike went viral on social media, leading to a global movement following her footsteps. Since 8th of September she decided to continue the strike every Friday until the Swedish policies changed to support the -2°C in line with the Paris agreement. To the people who question children's action, they reply "Why spend a lot of effort to become educated, when our governments are not listening to the educated?"

The last strike was on 29th of March, and will continue on Fridays across the globe.

For more information look through their website: <https://www.fridaysforfuture.org/>

World Animal Net submit their options to address gaps with regards to the Global Pact.

EEG was involved as an NGO to provide our comments to World Animal Net (WAN) to improve upon their draft document to submit for Global Pact, which addresses the various gaps in international environmental legislation, governance and implementation. In March, EEG was happy to receive the finalised document from WAN which they will submit for Global Pact.

World Animal Net (WAN), which was established in 1997 to improve communication and coordination among the world's animal protection groups. Various NGO's across the world gave WAN comments to improve upon their initial drafts. The document described in detail their stand and opinions for the following categories: Global Pact for the Environment, Environmental Rights, International Environmental Court of Justice, Governance, Financial and Economic Measures, Monitoring and Implementation, Education and Awareness, Capacity Building and International Development, Member States Commitments, Stakeholders and Partnerships.

Few of the important points include the support to the development and introduction of a Global Pact for the Environment as it strengthens the implementation and effectiveness of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

- Adoption of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) will be beneficial for all to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- There have been over 700 Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) negotiated over the past nearly 50 years with UN, however all are established with their own governing councils. It is important to cluster and re-structure MEAs to ensure more effective reporting to address the issues and in turn strengthen the UN.
- Convention on Biological Diversity has called for the world to commit to a "New Deal for Nature" in Beijing in 2020. World Leaders should be developing new solutions to transform our relationship with nature before 2020.
- Moving towards a Circular Economy
- Empowering the International Criminal Court and strengthening it to deal with environmental crimes or establishment of International Environmental Court of Justice.
- Importance of education and awareness and providing and usage of effective methods and messaging with an action-oriented approach. Furthermore, emphasising participatory pedagogy as opposed to the traditional imparting of facts and figures.

Useful Links: <http://worldanimal.net/>, <https://globalpactenvironment.org/uploads/EN.pdf>, <https://globalpactenvironment.org/?lang=en>

Draft Proceedings of the United Nations Environment Assembly Newsletter article

The fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme was held in Nairobi from the 11th to 15th of March 2019. The theme for the year 2019 was - "Innovative solutions to environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production."

A brief of the proceedings is given below:

1. Opening of the meeting:

The meeting was opened by the executive management of the United Nations Environment Programme who provided opening statements outlining the critical situation the planet is facing, along with the mounting pressure on its resources. However, a silver lining were the numerous examples of innovation from around the world in the field of sustainability and more specifically, sustainable consumption and production. This was followed by informative statements from the major regional groups: European Union and its Member States, African States, Asia-Pacific States, Latin American and Caribbean States and the Arab States.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

This session was an overview of the outcomes of the eighteenth Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, who were also called upon to act in accordance with the non-regression principle contained in the Rio+20 "The future we want" document.

EEG would like to congratulate the United Nations Environment Programme on the organisation of this high-level event - certainly one of its kind on the global scale. We look forward to actively participating in its proceedings in the future as well.

UNEA-4: Framework Document for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter Newsletter article

On the 13th of March, an in-depth session on the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and its Framework Document was held as part of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Why is this relevant?

According to sources, an average of 8 million tonnes of plastic waste is dumped in oceans every year and nearly 80% of the world's wastewater is discharged without treatment. As marine litter and micro-plastics are found in all the world's oceans and seas, even in remote areas far from human contact and obvious sources of the problem, the time to act is NOW.

What is the Global Partnership on Marine Litter?

The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) gathers international agencies, Governments, NGOs, academia, private sector, civil society and individuals to find solutions to this growing problem. Organisations can apply to be a part of the GPML or contribute in the form of financial support, in-kind contributions and/or technical expertise.

We congratulate the UN Environment Programme on this wonderful endeavour and look forward to witnessing all the relevant work conducted by them in the upcoming decade.

ACSS seeks applicants for its Small Grants Programme.

The Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) is seeking applications for its Small Grants Program (SGP) on the themes of "Youth" and "Urban Spatial Inequalities" that aims to support scholars and professionals in the Arab region. This competition is funded by grants provided to ACSS by the Ford Foundation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The program funds five kinds of activities such as travel grants (conferences/workshops), Internship support, organizing workshops, pilot studies and dissemination events. Small grants of \$4,000 on average will be available to individual Arab researchers and activists residing in the Arab region, and whose work focuses on Arab societies. Applicants must be citizens of an Arab League member state or nationals of an Arab country (defined as long-term residents, even if they do not hold citizenship as in the case of refugees or stateless residents). For further information please follow this link: <http://www.theacss.org/pages/sgp>

UNCCD Celebrates International Women's Day

The entire world celebrated International Women's Day on 8th of March. UNCCD joined with UNBonn to celebrate this day and the innovations by women and girls to remove the barriers to attain gender equality and empower the women at the same time. At the event, presentation on the project that enable women's empowerment were discussed, such as WeCode programming in Uganda etc... Overall, the general agreement was the more women should be provided access to digital learning to acquire new knowledge without leaving their jobs, families and communities.

This is in addition to the article published by the Executive Secretary of UNCCD mentioning that science and technology have the capacity to offer women in rural communities to tackle their daily life challenges and reduce their overall workload and empower them to participate in the paid labor market.

Read the full article by the Executive Secretary: <https://www.unccd.int/news-events/smart-tech-will-only-work-women-when-fundamentals-its-uptake-are-place>

EEG EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

EEG TALKS

CRITICAL AND EDUCATED DISCOURSE IS THE PATH TO A SOLUTION!

19th Annual Inter School Environmental Public Speaking Competition

Date : 22 & 23 - APRIL 2019, Time: 08:30 am - 05:30 pm

SUB SENIOR CATEGORY (APRIL 22)
 TOPIC 1: HEALTHCARE AND SUSTAINABILITY
 TOPIC 2: FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT - ACHIEVING ZERO HUNGER

SENIOR CATEGORY (APRIL 23)
 TOPIC 1: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
 TOPIC 2: CLIMATE CHANGE - REVERSING THE TIPPING POINT

MAIN SPONSOR
ENOC

Your Can For a Tree Project

1st April - 30th June 2019

EEG urges everyone to realise the benefits of recycling. Let us work towards achieving the overall objective of zero waste to landfills.

Collect and Exchange your Cans for an opportunity to plant an Indigenous tree sapling in December.

| Category | Quantity |
|-----------|----------|
| Companies | 225 kg |
| Schools | 200 kg |
| Families | 50 kg |

PLANT A TREE UNDER YOUR NAME

EEG EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Tel: +971 4 344 8422 | Fax: +971 4 344 8177 | Email: eeg@emirates.net.ae | Website: www.eeg-uae.org
 @emirateseeeg | www.facebook.com/EmiratesEnvironmentalGroup | eeg_dubai

EEG's MEMBER RENEWAL/NEW JOINEES

EEG warmly welcomed 1 new and 4 renewed academic members, 12 new and 5 renewed student members in the month of February

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Dunes International School | New | Delhi Private School Dubai | Renewal |
| | | Delhi Private School LLC, Sharjah | Renewal |

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

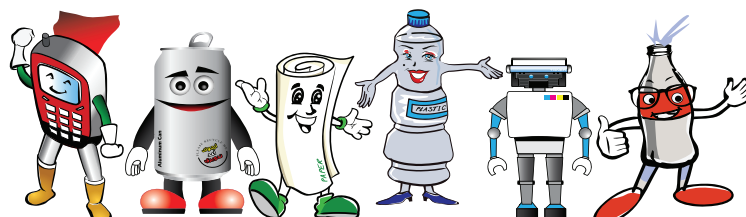
| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----------------------|---------|
| Aarush Kora | New | Aadharsh Ram Saravane | Renewal |
| Abraar Mohammed Hussain | New | Abitha Rajesh | Renewal |
| Ardra Jyothikumar | New | Aishwaryaa V.P. | Renewal |
| Diya Janak Mer | New | Aliya Nujum Navaz | Renewal |
| Evelyn Tessy Emmanuel | New | Asmita Pal | Renewal |
| Isha R. Nair | New | Madhav Manoj Vachali | Renewal |
| Kanish Kannan S | New | Roshit Mitra | Renewal |
| Kashvi Verma | New | Sasha Maria Dsouza | Renewal |
| Khushi Surana | New | Satyam Sharma | Renewal |
| Nimrah Mohammed Hussain | New | Shaun Fernandes | Renewal |
| Shivani Adduri | New | | |
| Shivit Kapoor | New | | |
| Yashvee Janak Mer | New | | |
| Akshat Goyal | New | | |

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|---------|
| Rizwan Khalid Sheikh | New | | Renewal |
|----------------------|-----|--|---------|

The collection of materials for recycling in the month of January, resulted in the following benefits:

- » GHG Reductions 498 (MTCO₂)
- » Saving of 3,806 Million BTU of Energy
- » Saving of 731 m³ of Landfill Space
- » Saving of 1,856 trees from being felled
- » Saving of 90 Gallons of Gasoline



| PAPER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN | Schools | Quantity (kg) | Families | Quantity (kg) |
|--|---|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| EEG has collected 92,361 kg of Paper from 357 participants during the month of March 2019, a decrease of 15% compared to February 2019. We encourage our participants to be actively involved in our Campaigns in the year 2019 so as to enable us to work towards our 2019 target. The Top Collectors were: | Delhi Private School Dubai | 3,460 | Nia Tony | 1,250 |
| | Sharjah Indian School (Boys) | 3,070 | Kush Bhautik V. Vaidya | 1,190 |
| | The Millennium School | 2,834 | Lacksana Karthikeyan | 1,112 |
| PLASTIC COLLECTION CAMPAIGN | Schools | Quantity (kg) | Families | Quantity (kg) |
| EEG has collected 5,835 kg of Plastic from 124 participants during the month of March 2019 a decrease of 8 % compared to February 2019. We encourage our participants to reduce the amount of plastic ending in landfills by increasing their collections in the year 2019. The top collectors for the month were: | Sharjah Indian School (Boys) | 220 | Kush Bhautik V. Vaidya | 200 |
| | Dubai National School | 125 | Joan Castillo | 160 |
| | Umm Al Arab School | 110 | Namaa Ismail Al Zarooni | 97 |
| GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN | Schools | Quantity (kg) | Families | Quantity (kg) |
| EEG has collected 4,292 kg of Glass Bottles from 43 participants during the month of March 2019, a decrease of 15.4% compared to February 2019. We encourage our participants to collect more in the year 2019. The Top collectors were: | American University of Sharjah | 95 | Cheryl Leah Mathew | 108 |
| | El Ekhlss Kindergarden | 25 | M. N Vivekanadan | 76 |
| | - | - | Aref Ali Hossaini | 13 |
| TONER COLLECTION CAMPAIGN | Schools | Quantity (pc) | Families | Quantity (pc) |
| EEG has collected 977 pcs of Toners from 7 participants during the month of March 2019, an increase of 357 % compared to February 2019. We encourage our participants to be active in the year 2019. The Top collectors were: | Al Rafea School for Basic and Secondary Education | 18 | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - |
| CAN COLLECTION CAMPAIGN | Schools | Quantity (kg) | Families | Quantity (kg) |
| EEG has collected 363 kg of Aluminum Cans from 32 participants during the month of March 2019, a decrease of 92% compared to February 2019. The top collectors for the month were: | American School of Dubai, Barsha | 10 | Nehan Naseem Ali | 30 |
| | - | - | Varun Pabreja | 11 |
| MOBILE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN | | | | |
| EEG has collected 63 pcs of Mobile Phones from 5 participants during the month of March 2019, an increase of 1160% compared to 2018. We thank our participants and encourage them to collect more for the year 2019. The Top collectors were: | | | | |

EEG invites all its members & participants to intensify efforts for the year 2019 to contribute significantly to the betterment of our environment and achieve the set targets for the above campaigns.